ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for forming an image, in which hardware resources for use in the forming of images are provided, and one or more processes run

5   based on programs in respect of the forming of images. The apparatus includes an off-line unit which puts the one or more processes in a off-line state in which restriction is placed on the running of the one or more processes, a memory area

10   releasing unit which releases one or more memory areas used by the one or more processes that are put in the off-line state, and a data laying-out unit which lays out data in the one or more memory areas released by the memory area releasing unit.